

Albuquerque International Sunport

ISSUE NO. 3

on course

SUMMER

1 9 9 9

S O A R I N G T O N E W H E I G H T S

IN EACH ISSUE



RECOGNIZING
Advisory board elects
new officers. Page 6



COMMUNITY
West Mesa Aviation offers
flight lessons. Page 2.



MUST SEE
Sunport reorganizes art
collection. Page 4.



SPOTLIGHT
GAs, FBOs make good
impression on visitors.
Cover.



NEWS
Airport gears up for
the year 2000.
Page 3.



SPOTLIGHT

GENERAL AVIATION

FIXED BASED OPERATORS

GA AIRPORTS, FBOs CREATE POSITIVE IMPRESSION

Double Eagle II may be out on the West Mesa — but it's no less important than the Sunport in welcoming visitors and creating a positive impression of Albuquerque.

The city's general aviation airport, along with Fixed Based Operators near the Sunport, play host to corporate jets as well as small aircraft. Says Vicki Husbands of Executive Aviation, "It's important that we treat our clients well — they bring a lot to the city's economy."

Noted celebrities pass through Albuquerque's general aviation facilities— Cutter Flying Service, Inc., has even welcomed Presidents Bush and Clinton.

AIRPORT ON THE WEST MESA

As a general aviation "reliever" airport, DE II receives funding through the Aviation Department. Its annual budget of \$250,000 is supported largely by Sunport revenues.

"We find the airlines at the Sunport are generally very supportive of Double Eagle, because bringing general aviation planes here means less congestion and delays for them," says Airport Manager Mike Medley.

Some 215 planes are based at the airport, up from 150 in 1997, when Medley became manager.

The airport has laid out specific plans for growth in its first Master Plan since 1980. The plan, which forecasts 20 years ahead, may be approved by the City Council this summer. It paves the way for an environmental assessment and expansion of northeast-southwest runway 4-22 from 7,500 to 10,000 feet.

It also explores ideas for development of the airport's open land and hangar space. At 4,400 acres, DE II's property holdings exceed that of the Sunport's. Two Fixed Based Operators, Aerowest and West Mesa Aviation, offer maintenance and charter services, and Medley feels the area can support additional FBOs.

Double Eagle is located eight miles north of I-40 atop Nine Mile Hill, with convenient access to Paradise Hills and Rio Rancho. *Continued on page 2*

INSIDE

Art at the Airport

THE ALBUQUERQUE SUNPORT is known for its vast art collection that includes landscapes, bronze statues and even religious folk art. *Page 4.*





TRACKING WEATHER CONDITIONS



The airport just received a boost from the purchase of a new Automated Weather Observation System and SuperUnicom System, financed largely by the FAA and state and city government.

The weather system — which takes continuous measurements of temperature, humidity, visibility, wind speed and direction, precipitation, dew point and cloud height — will both increase the airport's safety and allow it to handle traffic more efficiently, says Medley. Data is collected every 60 seconds and relayed to the FAA and National Weather Service. Pilots can obtain general weather and landing information through the SuperUnicom System.

FIXED BASED OPERATORS

Of course, general aviation isn't limited to the West Mesa. Cutter and Executive — full-service FBOs providing maintenance, fuel sales, storage, flight instruction and charter services — are located just southwest of the Sunport. The area also supports several limited FBOs. South Aero, for example, services UPS and freight jets; Seven Bar Flying Services provides air ambulance service.

Executive, a 22-person, 24-hour operation, has won six Tiger Spirit awards from Exxon for its quality service in fuel contracting.

The FBO services planes ranging from single-engines to 757s, says Husbands, adding that "the corporate jet market is a growing area for us."

"We're essential in giving businesses a positive first impression of the city," agrees Lowell Whitten of Cutter. Both FBOs provide ample conference room space for business executives on a tight travel schedule.

Cutter, a 75-employee operation, offers expert maintenance and repair services, as well as specializing in the refurbishing and resale of Raytheon aircraft.

Husbands believes in giving visitors a taste of New Mexico — hence Executive's territorial-style building. She's famous for the red chile powder samples she gives out at FBO conventions. "Cutter's specialty is green chile," she jokes.



The new Automated Weather Observation System



Cutter Flying Service also has conference space available for busy executives

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Although they compete for the same clients, there's a sense of camaraderie among Albuquerque's FBOs, says Husbands.

Each year, FBO employees help coordinate the New Mexico Pilot Bash, open to employees in general, commercial and military aviation. This year's bash — on June 12 at Cutter — drew more than 700 people.

For the second year, all proceeds from the Pilot Bash went to the Jim and Roz Kinlen Memorial Scholarship Fund, designed to further youth aviation education. The Kinlens, who passed away in 1997, founded the Pilot Bash 27 years ago.

"Last year we awarded five \$500 scholarships to high school and college students pursuing studies in aviation," says Husbands. "We've donated to non-profits in the past, but this was particularly rewarding for us."

Contributions to the Scholarship Fund are being accepted by the New Mexico Pilot Bash Scholarship Committee, 12009 Donna Court NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. A raffle held at the June 12 event also benefitted the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship application forms are available from Vicki Husbands, P.O. Box 328, Bosque, NM 87006.



LEARN TO FLY

If you drive the Big I, you've likely seen West Mesa Aviation's billboard for flight lessons.

Learning to fly takes several months, variable depending on the person's previous experience and aptitude, says West Mesa owner David McVinnie.

In addition to hiring a new chief flight instructor, the company recently unveiled a computer-based training program that can substitute for 10 hours of certification training.

For more information, contact West Mesa at 831-2FLY (2359). Introductory flights are available for \$35.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

A diverse group of aviation and security officials recently met at the airport to discuss how to handle possible security threats. The roundtable exercise, required annually by the Federal Aviation Administration, "allows us to come together, benefit and learn from each other, and make sure we're on the same page in terms of security," says Randy Mitchell of the FAA. Attendees represented the Sunport, air carriers, FBI, FAA, Fire Department, City of Albuquerque, Kirtland Air Force Base, SWAT team and city police. "It's not one entity that handles security issues, but everyone working together," says Mitchell. "This exercise allows us to clarify our responsibilities."

Aviation and security officials met to discuss possible security threats.



AIRPORT GEARS UP FOR

Y 2 K
E A R 2 0 0 0

While Systems Analyst Phil Nelson can't predict exactly how the Y2K computer glitch will affect airport operations, he does know the Sunport is prepared for any challenge.

Security and lighting will be prime areas of concentration when Jan. 1 hits. Already the Sunport has replaced runway lights and secured a generator to ensure continuous power. The Sunport has also tested and developed a backup plan for its security system.

Nelson says the airport has also participated in audits and inventories by the FAA and Air Transport Association.

"There are a lot of pieces to the puzzle," says Nelson. As he works to prepare the airport infrastructure, individual airlines, shops and restaurants are developing their own plans for dealing with Y2K.

"Every month, we hold an airline managers' meeting and update on Y2K," Nelson says. This enables airport and airline staff to coordinate on overlapping concerns — such as the possible replacement of electric jetways with portable boarding stairs and contingency plans for fuel.

Information Systems officer Clint Hubbard, who serves with Nelson on a citywide Y2K task force, says city government has followed the standard self-evaluation process: identifying possible problems, analyzing current systems, upgrading or replacing systems, testing them and developing contingency plans should they fail.

In Albuquerque's case that has meant replacing police radio, Computer Aided Dispatch and Emergency 911 systems, as well as making modifications to Public Works and Financial systems.

The city has set up an emergency operations center on the West Side, and Public Safety and Works staff will be on duty well into 2000 to ensure systems run safely and smoothly. They'll have a little lead time thanks to PBS, which will broadcast year 2000 conditions as various areas of the country and world cross into the new millennium.

The \$5 million effort to prepare the city officially began a year and a half ago — although Hubbard notes the city has steadily made system upgrades since 1988.

For more information on Albuquerque's Y2K readiness, see www.cabq.gov/y2k.

RATE INCREASE *affects daily parking*

Sunport passengers have seen a **slight increase** in daily parking rates — but they still pay much less than travelers in other cities.

The rate increase was the Sunport's first in 10 years, and will not affect passengers who park for six hours or less.

The new rates are \$7 daily for the first three days, \$10 for each additional day in short-term parking. In the long-term lots, it is \$6 daily for the first three days, then \$8 daily.

In comparison, short-term daily parking rates are \$22 in Austin, \$12 in Denver, \$14 in Salt Lake City and \$8 in Tucson.

Sunport staff hope the increase — while still keeping parking affordable — **will free more spaces for short-term parking.**



MUST SEE

*Reorganization brings both
old and new works to light.*

Art at the Airport

THE SUNPORT — A GALLERY OF FINE ART



THE ALBUQUERQUE SUNPORT is known for its vast and varied art collection — 93 works spanning desert landscapes, bronze statues and religious folk art.

Now, by bringing to light pieces that have been in storage, and reordering the entire collection, the Sunport hopes to bring more artwork to attention than ever before.

"We've noticed that most people tend to fly the same airlines and board out of the same gates," says Arts Administrator Regina Chapman. "So they may not realize how large and diverse our collection really is."

The relocation will provide a more representative sample of the collection in all areas of the airport. Previously, Contemporary, Western, Hispanic and Native American art dominated separate areas of the terminal. Under the reorganization, a sweeping landscape, wood carving and intricate weaving may grace the same gate area.

More than one-fifth of the collection was put in storage two years ago, when construction began on the new food court. In addition to re-hanging those pieces, the Sunport has commissioned two replacement pieces for the collection: a landscape watercolor by Western artist Morris Rippel, and the purchase of an etching by late artist Gene Kloss.

Several of the Pop Chalee pieces originally acquired for the old terminal building will be returned to the newly restored building this fall.

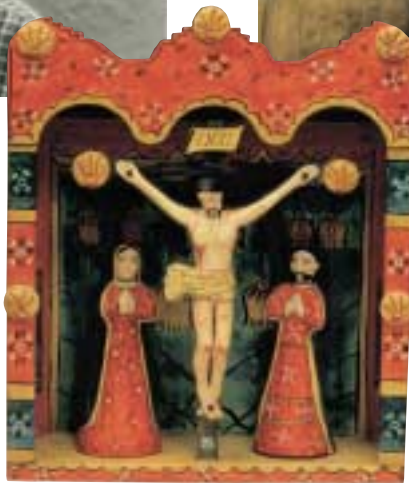
The reorganization is being directed by a planning committee composed of members of the Aviation Advisory Board, Albuquerque Arts Board and Public Art Program, as well as artists and community members. Moving the art is a complicated process, encompassing building new cases and rewiring alarmed walls. The committee is also paying special attention to light, says Chapman. "We're taking care to avoid hanging artwork where the sunlight can fade and damage them."





Among the works to be moved are (left to right, from top) a sumac coil basket by Lydia Pesata, Tim Prythero's "American," Laura Gachupin's "Owlbowl," Beaumont Newhall's "Ansel Adams," Edward Gonzales' "Haciendo Pan," Marie Romero Cash's "Cristo and Mourning Figures," Glenna Goodacre's "Basket Dance," and "Poe Kwinsawin" by Ramoncita Sandoval.

Chapman, formerly executive director of the Hispanic Culture Foundation, joined the Sunport staff in May 1998. A musician and artist, she has been instrumental in starting the year-round Sunport Serenades concert series.



Other upcoming arts projects include developing space for temporary exhibits from area museums, acquiring art for the Sunport's soon-to-be-built offsite rental car facility and — of interest to art and aviation buffs alike — conserving the Curtiss biplane.

The biplane, which hangs in the Great Hall, is one of only three 1911-14 era biplanes that have most of their original parts. "Because of its age and Albuquerque's dry climate, it's in need of conservation," says Chapman.

Rather than dismantling and shipping the plane elsewhere, the Sunport has decided to hold the conservation onsite this fall.

Chapman expects the process will be "an exhibit in itself — a chance to observe and learn about historic preservation."



WESTERN ARTIST HAS EYE FOR LANDSCAPES

In sharp detail and strong lines, native Albuquerquean Morris Rippel captures the essence of the West.

His watercolor, "Corrales Mystique," will soon be added to the Sunport collection to replace the "Corrales" piece. It shows a cottonwood extending its branches over a rustic adobe. Autumn hues of yellow and orange, and the interplay of shadow and light, give vibrancy to the simple design.

Rippel says he's naturally drawn to architectural lines. He was inspired to paint the Utah canyonlands, for example, because the distant mesas "looked like ships at sea. You could see a hundred miles in any direction."

He sets his human subjects against similarly vast landscapes: a family rounding a cliff in an Old West caravan, a farmhand driving his flock across rugged terrain, a lone gypsy standing against an ornate Italian plaza.

An architect by training, Rippel has been painting professionally since 1965. In his nearly 35-year career, he estimates he's produced 975 paintings — most of which are held in out-of-state collections.

A recent painting for the Albuquerque Museum, "Old Town 1895," called on both his architectural and artistic expertise. Using flat maps, Rippel recreated in detailed pencil sketches each building as it must have looked a century ago. The sketches still hang in his studio.

Rippel's work appeals to a diverse crowd — western collectors include both the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma and a boutique gallery in Northern California.

He considers the Sunport just as important a collection: a way to convey his unique vision of the West to the several million passengers who pass through the airport each year.



Albuquerquean Morris Rippel painting the desert he loves.



CHAIRS BRING INTEREST, EXPERTISE TO BOARD

The Airport Advisory Board's newly elected officers share a common vision: fostering good relations between the Sunport and the community.

“ I see this board as a liaison between the two, and hope to develop strong ties with both sides, ” says Chairman Jon Word.

Although new to the board, Jon Word is no stranger in the community. He's the CEO of Contact New Mexico, Inc. — the state's largest paging provider — and has served as chair of the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority Board of Directors since 1995. Other community projects include serving on the Norwest Bank Leadership Council and supporting programs for youth.

His interest in the aviation board was partly fueled by his love of flying. Word has been a pilot for 20 years, even operating a flight school while in college.

New vice chair Gale Doyel just began her second term on the board. Former president of the Southeast Heights Neighborhood Association, she comes from an aviation-oriented family: "My husband, son and son-in-law are all pilots."

A native Albuquerquean, Doyel is interested in preserving the airport's past as well as preparing for its future. Restoration of the old

a z x t y u

U MAYOR CLEARS WAY for rental car facility



Mayor Jim Baca

Mayor Jim Baca has signed bills clearing the way for a new Sunport rental-car center, a facility that promises to improve the parking situation in the main garage as well as reduce congestion in the terminal area.

"This new facility works in many ways to improve our airport and keep it modern and convenient," Baca says. Besides reducing congestion and improving parking, the new facility clears the way for future terminal expansion and will cut down on air pollution at the Sunport.

"This is an important development both for the city and the rest of New Mexico because this airport supports tourism and economic development across the state," the mayor adds.

The new rental car facility — expected to open next April — will be located on 76 acres on University Boulevard SE, southwest of the terminal. Rental-car customers will be shuttled there by 14 or so buses the Sunport will operate. Renters won't have to wait until a bus comes from a particular agency — the situation at most airports across the country.

"I've done a lot of traveling over the years to most airports in this country, and it's always a hassle to locate the one shuttle from one particular rental agency," the mayor says. "This way, renters will be able to go to the rental car facility in just moments."

The advent of the new facility frees 425 spaces on top of the main



Left to right: Gale Doyel, Aviation Director Jay Czar, and Jon Word

terminal is a key interest for her: She helped the Junior League obtain historic status for the building in 1974.

Also appointed to the board for a three-year term is pilot Tom Baca.

"There's a lot going on with this airport in the next few years, and I look forward to being a part of it," says Word.

The Airport Advisory Board is a group of nine volunteers appointed by the mayor with City Council approval. The board serves in an advisory capacity, providing recommendations to the Director of Aviation, Mayor and City Council.

Monthly meetings, open to the public, are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Sunport's Aviation Department Conference Room.

Other board members include David W. Scott, Linda Olmsted, Chris Lackmann, Silvio Reeves and G. Mark Yarbrough.

parking garage for the public. Aviation Director Jay Czar notes the garage was closed 80 different times last year because the structure was full.

Rental-return lots also take up valuable space that are needed for terminal expansion. Czar adds that rental companies will be able to expand operations once they're in the new facility.

Some rental car companies initially questioned the proposal because the package includes a \$1.53-a-day charge to help pay for the \$46 million project and run the shuttle buses. The City Council, however, passed the program nearly unanimously. "I think everybody realizes this is a necessary and good thing," Baca says.

Here is a rundown on the program:

U The package will cost \$46.3 million, with about two-thirds coming from airport revenue bonds and the rest with airport equity earmarked for capital improvement. The \$1.53-a-day customer facility charge will generate about \$3 million a year.

U The largest cost will be service centers for the rental agencies, about \$18 million. The center will include such features as underground gasoline-storage tanks and service bays. The customer building will encompass 21,500 square feet, including food and beverage concessions, large windows and outdoor awnings. The customer building will cost about \$13 million.

U The city paid \$5 million to buy the property and will spend \$6.7 million to widen University Boulevard and realign two smaller roads.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

brings MORE CITIES *within reach*

SEATTLE, TUCSON AND NEW YORK are now within easy reach of Albuquerque passengers, thanks to Southwest's expanded itinerary.

The flight to MacArthur Airport in Islip, N.Y., which began in mid-March, is a boost for Southwest's growing East Coast market, says Marketing Manager Terry Eisenbart.

The Islip airport is an hour from Manhattan by train, and one to two hours by car. It's also less congested than New York City's two major airports: La Guardia and JFK.

But Southwest isn't only concerned with serving Manhattan-area residents. "Our main goal of flying to Long Island is to serve the nearly 3 million people of Nassau and Suffolk counties," says Eisenbart. "That's approximately the same population as Chicago."

Islip's airport has added new gates and renovated its baggage claim, terminal and parking lot to prepare for increased traffic through Southwest, she says.

From Albuquerque, the trip takes seven hours, including two connections. "We anticipate the service will improve over time," says Eisenbart. The two flights leave at 7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m., arriving at 2:35 and 9 p.m., respectively.

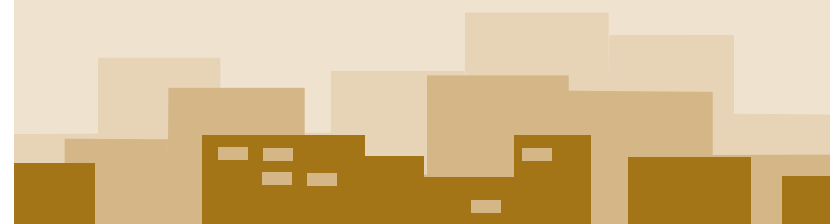
Passengers say you can't beat the New York fare — which has dropped as low as \$198 round-trip.

Soon after the Islip flights began, Southwest announced it would offer nonstop service to Seattle and Tucson from Albuquerque.

Albuquerqueans can now fly to Tucson for as low as \$39 one way. Seattle flights begin July 6, at an advance-purchase fare of \$149 one way. The airline is also offering additional nonstop flights to Kansas City and Houston.

Eisenbart expects the change will benefit Albuquerque in more ways than one. "Currently, we only offer flights from Tucson to the West Coast," she says. "With direct service between Tucson and Albuquerque, the Sunport will become our bridge to the East."

Now that passengers can fly from Seattle to Albuquerque, then on to Houston, "it will be one hop from the Northwest to Texas," she says.



March

| 1 9 9 9 | 1 9 9 8 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Passenger total 526,610 | Passenger total 528,303 |
| Southwest Airlines 253,559 | |
| Delta 61,245 | |
| American 45,266 | |
| United 43,953 | |
| America West 31,269 | |
| TWA 30,065 | |
| Continental 27,257 | |
| Mesa Airlines 14,387 | |
| Northwest 13,125 | |
| Frontier 4,140 | |
| Skywest 2,211 | |

April

| 1 9 9 9 | 1 9 9 8 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Passenger total 516,893 | Passenger total 506,328 |
| Southwest Airlines 239,145 | |
| Delta 61,132 | |
| American 49,592 | |
| United 45,488 | |
| America West 32,002 | |
| TWA 30,168 | |
| Continental 26,021 | |
| Northwest 13,489 | |
| Mesa Airlines 12,607 | |
| Frontier 4,653 | |
| Skywest 2,352 | |

May

| 1 9 9 9 | 1 9 9 8 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Passenger total 535,812 | Passenger total 537,853 |
| Southwest Airlines 246,927 | |
| Delta 63,118 | |
| American 52,671 | |
| United 47,498 | |
| America West 34,035 | |
| TWA 31,107 | |
| Continental 26,564 | |
| Northwest 13,510 | |
| Mesa 13,122 | |
| Frontier 4,537 | |
| Skywest 2,398 | |
| Rio Grande Air 325 | |



ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL SUNPORT
Post Office Box 9948
Albuquerque, NM 87119-1048

Presorted
Standard
US Postage Paid
Albuquerque NM
Permit No 1888

MAYOR
JIM BACA

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
LAWRENCE RAE

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

VICKIE FISHER
THERESA TRUEQUE

CITY COUNCILORS

VINCENT E. GRIEGO
PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 2
ADELE BACA-HUNDLEY
VICE PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 3
ALAN B. ARMijo, DISTRICT 1
SAM BREGMAN, DISTRICT 4
TIM KLINE, DISTRICT 5
RUTH M. ADAMS, DISTRICT 6
MIKE E. MCENTEE, DISTRICT 7
TIM CUMMINS, DISTRICT 8
MICHAEL BRASHER, DISTRICT 9

AVIATION DIRECTOR
JAY CZAR

THE NEW SUNPORT NEWSLETTER

SUNPORT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: MAGGIE SANTIAGO
DESIGN AND WRITING: SIGNAL CREATIVE GROUP
PREPRESS: RIGHT READING DIGITAL INC.
PRINTING: ACADEMY PRINTERS

